

# The Divine Destruction of Judaism

## Introduction

I have explained, in many papers, that the Old Covenant (Mosaic Law) was terminated at the cross of Christ and the New Covenant instituted.<sup>1</sup> None of the moral code in the Mosaic Law was withdrawn but it was included in the New Covenant, just as it had existed in Patriarchal times before the Mosaic Law appeared.

The Mosaic Law was a temporary institution<sup>2</sup> to point to Christ and to lead Israel towards her Messiah.<sup>3</sup> When Christ came this purpose was fulfilled and the Mosaic Law ceased (not the eternal Moral Law).

Biblical Judaism was enshrined within the Mosaic Law (Torah). Thus Biblical Judaism ended when the cross brought forth a new age in the Spirit. Judaism had no further purpose in God's plan.

However, there was a temporary period when Jewish disciples gradually came to understand this, which was especially articulated by Paul. However, even Peter made a mistake in understanding this until corrected by Paul (Gal 2:11-21). This temporary period was necessary for Jewish believers to gradually understand the dogmatics of it as the Holy Spirit gradually guided them in knowledge.

Paul could thus write the letter to the Galatians quite early on in church history explaining that Jewish rituals and feasts are dead works, bring bondage and must be discarded. They bring bondage because they feed the old nature and are not spiritual. Their purpose was to point to Christ and that purpose was now fulfilled.

The letter to the Hebrews was written somewhat later (I believe by Paul) in order to teach Jewish believers that they must move on from Judaism in all its forms and embrace the New Covenant in Christ. He lays down effective arguments showing that Christ is better than Moses, better than angels, better than the Tabernacle and so on. As in Galatians he explains that it is faith that brings relationship to God not Old Covenant fleshly ordinances and that even Abraham was an example of this.

In Hebrews Paul explains that the Old Covenant is now obsolete and cancelled<sup>4</sup> and is soon to be destroyed. If the Old Covenant (Mosaic Law) is destroyed, then Judaism is destroyed.

What he was referring to was the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple by the Romans in 70 AD. This made sure that the vital aspects of Judaism (the temple, priesthood, offerings, vessels etc.) were destroyed and therefore the fundamentals of Judaism could no longer be carried out – especially sacrificial offerings on the altar.

The heart of Biblical Judaism is the temple and this was destroyed and all the holy vessels and furniture carried away.

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<sup>1</sup> Such as: 'The believer's relationship to the law'; 'The purpose of the law'; 'Law and the believer' etc.

<sup>2</sup> Gal 3:19.

<sup>3</sup> Gal 3:24.

<sup>4</sup> Heb 8:13.

The destruction of Jerusalem is a seminal point in world history and it led to three significant matters.

The first was that it was the most demonstrable proof of the fulfilment of prophecy made by Jesus himself. These prophecies were perfectly fulfilled, proving his authority from God. I will demonstrate some of these later.

The second is that Judaism was now obsolete and ruined by an act of God's providence in history.

The third is something that most Christians fail to grasp. That is, that facing the eradication of Biblical Judaism, the Pharisees developed a new religion called Judaism based upon the *Babylonian Talmud* (academies of Pharisees had existed for centuries in Babylon). The Talmud became the authoritative text for modern Jews (apart from a minority of Torah Jews) and it expresses the character of the Pharisees. It teaches the very opposite of Mosaic ethics and at root teaches selfism, idolatry, fornication, superstition, iniquity, magic and Satanism. In fact the Talmud is the most foul, blasphemous set of writings in the world.<sup>5</sup>

Now this obliteration of Judaism needs to be exposed, especially in a time when the lies of Dispensationalism (funded and supported by the global elite) have deceived gullible Christians into thinking that God still has a purpose for the fleshly, materialistic Jews and the State of Israel separate to the Gospel. This is heresy. Jews need to be converted to Christ by the Gospel to be saved as Paul makes clear in the letter to the Romans.

So, if theological and Biblical arguments fail to convince people that Judaism is obsolete, one merely has to point to the destruction of the temple. This is incontrovertible proof that Judaism, as expressed in the Old Testament, cannot continue.

Let us examine some facts.

## **The condemnation of Jews in the Bible**

I have examined the whole gamut of divine condemnation seen in Scripture in another paper,<sup>6</sup> here I will offer just a few examples.

Essentially, as Jesus summarised, the Jews were a stiff-necked rebellious people from the word 'go'. Even at Sinai they committed idolatry immediately after the most wonderful divine deliverance from the Egyptians.

After the conquest of Canaan, again with divine miracles, the Jews fell into idolatry and rebellion time after time. Each occasion God graciously raised up a deliverer in the Judges who brought peace until the Jews rebelled again.

Then the Lord gave Israel prophets to bring correction, but they rebelled continually, first by demanding a king instead of God's direct government and then by idolatry, wrong alliances, unrighteous governance and intermarriages with pagans.

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<sup>5</sup> See my book 'The Pharisees'. The Talmud contains horrific blasphemies against Jesus.

<sup>6</sup> 'The True Position of Jews: In the Old and New Testament and Today.'

After the division of the kingdom, Israel (the Northern Kingdom) failed to have any righteous kings at all and the nation descended into idolatry very quickly. Thus it was judged and the ten tribes were captured and exiled forever after 721 BC.

Judah managed a few good kings but eventually the nation became worse than Israel and was also consigned to exile in Babylon after 586 BC.

Thus the whole of Israel's history was an appalling degeneration into rebellion to God, apart from a few good kings like David – but even they had many failings.

In all this God was still faithful. He brought a small remnant of Judah back from Babylon and restored Jerusalem and the temple, but not in its former glory.

Thus the time was set for the appearance of the Messiah, the long-awaited deliverer of the Jews. This was Israel's last chance to obey God.

What happened? Israel en masse rejected her own Messiah. A few good people of the land accepted Christ as Lord but the vast majority, including almost all the national and religious leaders, did not. This was the fatal rebellion. God's patience with Israel was ended.

Jesus warned the Jewish leaders about this time after time – but they would not listen. Eventually Jesus unequivocally stated that the kingdom of God would be taken away from the Jews (Matt 21:43), the house of Israel would be left desolate (Matt 23:37-38) and the nation crushed to powder (Matt 21:44).

Jesus summarised this history of rebellion in an allegory

**'Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, "They will respect my son". But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, "This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance". So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?' They said to Him, 'He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons'. Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the Scriptures: "The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes"'? Matt 21:33-42**

He also stated it openly to the religious leaders.

**Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, and say, 'If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.' Therefore you are witnesses against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers' guilt. Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell? Therefore, indeed, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes: some of**

them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city, that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation. O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! Matt 23:27-37

The sin of rejecting their own Messiah and then killing him, on top of killing God's prophets and committing continual rebellion and spiritual adultery finally resulted in the destruction both of the Jews (crushed to powder) and Judaism (made obsolete). That generation of Jews was obliterated and the land passed to Idumaeans (Edomites) proselytes and foreigners.

Thus the apostles followed Jesus in condemning unrepentant Jews (but welcoming those who repented).

- They stated that the Jews were murderers of the Messiah (Acts 2:23, 3:14-15, 4:10, 5:30, 7:52, 13:27-28; Heb 10:39).
- They stated that the Jews were the enemy of the church and the Gospel (Acts 4:1-3, 5:17-18, 13:45, 13:50, 13:50, 14:2, 19, 17:5-6, 13, 18:12, 21:27; Rm 11:28; 1 Thess 2:14-15).
- They stated that the Jews were unworthy of eternal life and rejected the Gospel (Acts 13:46).
- They stated that the Jews are not the people of God by national descent (Rm 9:23-25).
- They stated that God's uttermost wrath is upon the Jews (1 Thess 2:16).

This was held throughout church history by all mainstream sound theologians and Bible teachers – until the arrival of Dispensationalism, which reversed it all after 1830.

The idea that fleshly Jews are the people of God and in God's favour and blessing is novel and false. Hardly anyone in history believed such a thing until the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century when apostasy really took firm root in the church.

Today, many modern churchgoers, especially in America, have been brought up on the lies of Dispensationalism which elevates the Jews in God's eternal purpose and denigrates the church as a mere stop gap.

This was a deliberately fostered heresy, financed by Zionists in power and banking to create a 'Christian' moral majority in American society that would support Jews in general and the State of Israel created in May 1948. Gradually throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century US foreign policy became dominated by Zionist Neocons that made America a slave of Israel. Thus American taxpayers paid trillions of dollars in needless illegal wars against countries that gave no clear and present danger to America, while many mothers lost sons who died to serve Israel but did nothing for the USA.

Sadly, all this is based upon a theological lie. Modern Israel is not the servant of God and most Jews are not even Semitic people or descended from Jacob (Israel).

In fact, the final words of Jesus through the apostles utterly condemn Jews as enemies of the Gospel and contrary to all men.

Judaism was finished by God with the appearance of the Messiah, who fulfilled all the Old Covenant types, symbols and prophecies making them redundant in any literal sense. The

apostles explained this abrogation of Judaism but the Lord God brought about its undeniable material end in 70 AD.

## The physical end of Judaism

To seal and finalise the promised divine judgments against the Jews and to terminate Judaism, God used the Roman army. This was prophesied by Jesus when the Jews had absolute faith that Jerusalem was impregnable and the temple (which had just finished being refurbished before its destruction) was eternally secure.

They had reason to feel confident in the flesh since there were three huge walls (except where there was an insurmountable rock face, where there was only one built into the rock), scores of watchtowers, all built to a very high standard, and many boundaries of the city were cliffs (Jerusalem is built on two mountains). The towers were considered by Titus to be the best in the world.

As exhibited throughout the history of Israel, that generation of Jews was stiff-necked and proud and they trusted in themselves. To emphasise the displeasure of God against the Jews that killed God's Son, the siege and defeat of Jerusalem was of cataclysmic historical significance. It was claimed to be the very worst example of suffering in history.

Interestingly, the Christians in Jerusalem at the time of the Roman advance remembered Jesus' words and fled the city to Pella (some say warned by divine visions).<sup>7</sup> Anyone wanting to save their life could have copied them, but the Jews were proud and arrogant. It was the height of stupidity to think that they could resist the Roman army that had even defeated the mighty Hannibal and utterly destroyed Carthage, sowing the very earth with salt.

God made an example of the destruction of Jerusalem and Judaism as a warning for all time that to reject Jesus and rebel against God brought appalling consequences. This is why, when Jesus prophesied about the fall of Jerusalem, he intermingled his descriptions with his teaching on the events of the end in Matthew 24. The fall of Jerusalem was a type of the end; it was an eschatological metaphor.

### Progress of the Jewish revolt and war with Rome

#### *Beginning*

Uprisings of the Jews had been common but incendiary feelings began to rise when Eleazar, son of the High Priest, ordered the priests to reject the sacrifices of foreigners and no longer offer up prayers for them – which was a direct attack on Caesar.

Facing a widespread disturbance, Castius Gallus, governor of Syria, marched into Judea committing desolation and slaughter. Towns like Zabulon, Lydda, Joppa and many others were burned and pillaged. 8,400 were killed at Joppa alone. He finally encamped a mile from Jerusalem. After four days he entered the city and burned three sections; however, he was persuaded to leave the city by his officers. A Jewish army killed 6,000 Roman troops near Antipatris.

It was at this point that the Christians fled to Pella along with the more wealthy Jews.

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<sup>7</sup> A town in the Decapolis (Perea). See: Eusebius, *Church History*, 3.5.3; Epiphanius, *Panarion*, 29.7.7-8, 30.2.7; *On weights and measures*, 15.

Nero appointed Vespasian, an experienced general, to continue the war against the Jews. He appointed his son Titus to assist him, together they gathered an army of 60,000. Thus Vespasian marched into Judea in the spring of 67. Everywhere he went he wreaked devastation; even killing the old and infants. Over fifteen months he destroyed the principle towns of Galilee and Judea, killing at least 150,000.

God's judgment is seen in many instances, such as at Joppa. The piracies of the Jews angered Vespasian but the Jews fled before his army to their ships. Immediately a storm arose destroying many vessels. Many were killed by drowning, by crushing against ships, by being dashed against rocks, crushed by broken ships and some killed themselves. Those that reached the shore were slaughtered by the Romans. The sea itself ran red with blood. Thousands of bodies lay on the beaches and no one survived (cf. Luke 21:25).

Vespasian reached Jericho but then laid up in Caesarea to make preparations to besiege Jerusalem.

At this point Nero died, so Vespasian suspended the war to see what the new emperor would decide. Thus the Jews had respite for two years. Rather than repenting, the Jews arrogantly stirred up strife. Two factions arose in Jerusalem set against each other. After the Idumaeans had been banished from the city, they attacked it in the night and slaughtered 8500 men women and children, plundering houses. The chief priests were killed and mutilated. 12,000 of the nobles were imprisoned and tortured and then killed. Bodies lay in the streets and in heaps in roads.

While the Jewish factions killed each other, brigands ravaged the Judean countryside; robbing and murdering men, women and children. Simon son of Gioras led a band of 40,000 brigands and entered Jerusalem, initiating a third faction. More destruction followed. A lake of blood stood in the temple courts. Mad with rage John of Gischala, the head of one faction, burned up the storehouses full of provisions. Another faction head, Simon, followed his example, ensuring future calamity.

At this mad point, news arrived that the Roman army was approaching. Astonished, the Jews were petrified but there was no escape. The city was in complete disorder with bodies everywhere. The inhabitants were heard to cry day and night mingled with lamentations.

Vespasian had been made emperor and Titus was heading the Roman army. He encamped before Jerusalem to lay siege. The Jewish state was indeed to be compared to a carcass and the Roman ensign of each legion was an eagle. This recollects Jesus' words, '**wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together**' (Matt 24:28). The day that Titus surrounded Jerusalem was Passover, the anniversary of the crucifixion of Jesus. Jerusalem was overflowing with pilgrims from all over the empire. Jesus warned such not to enter the city.<sup>8</sup> Thus the whole Jewish nation was cooped up in the city awaiting judgment.

On the arrival of the Roman army the Jewish factions united and repulsed the tenth legion. This gave a break in hostilities and gave opportunity for those that wished to escape. However, this minor victory gave the Jews confidence and they resolved to defend the city. However, the factions reasserted themselves under John and Simon and plundering began anew with the middle of the city being burned.

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<sup>8</sup> Lk 21:20-21, 'But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her'.

### *Siege of Jerusalem*

The siege of Jerusalem was hell on earth. It was a severe judgment. It was worse than the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, which were burned up in moments. The suffering of the Jews was prolonged.

I first learned about this as a young believer in the 1970s when I purchased a copy of Josephus' histories of the Jews, and this is our main source. However, there are also other sources and the Roman victory was celebrated in significant ways, such as stone monuments and the minting of commemorative coins. This was a major event in history – why do modern Christians rarely talk about it and most know nothing about it? The answer is that many seminaries and most secular education settings are run by Jewish Zionists or people favourable to Zionism. Certainly Cultural Marxists dominate universities and colleges and that was a Jewish anti-Christian philosophical movement. The elite does not want people to know about the destruction of Jerusalem.

The Romans overcame two of the three defensive walls and this caused the Jewish factions to unite again. However, famine broke out in the city. Insanely, the factions again became hostile, motivated by stealing food. Starving people ate uncooked grain. People were tortured for a handful of grain. Families attacked each other to get food. Children took from parents, parents from each other and mothers from their own infants.

The dreadful hunger led many out of the city right into the hand of the Romans, who crucified them in such large numbers that there was no space left for crosses and the forests of Judah were denuded of trees.

A rumour spread that the Jews had swallowed gold, so Syrian and Arab mercenaries ripped open deserters to find it. Titus saw such horrendous things that he entreated the Jews to surrender. The Jews reviled him. Angered, he surrounded the city with a large trench about 5 miles long with 13 towers. This was accomplished in three days. Jesus prophesied this in Luke 19:43.

The famine got much worse. The tops of houses and corners of the city were filled with bodies. People were too weak to bury the dead or even to lament their slain. Despite this robbers still dug up graves and stole clothes from the dead. Wild laughter pervaded the air. Simon Gioras then executed the High priest and his three sons.

A Jew named Mannaeus fled to Titus telling him that from the beginning of the siege (14 April) to 1 July 115,880 dead bodies had been carried through just one gate. Other respectable individuals fled to the Romans. Seeing the state of things even the Romans felt pity. Titus cried to God protesting that he was not responsible for this horror. Josephus, serving Titus, then appealed to the Jewish leaders to surrender. They reviled him.

People began to eat their own belts, shoe leather and the skins on their shields or even grass; some ate cow dung. Noblewomen began to eat their own children. Those suffering congratulated the dead for avoiding this calamity, as everyone was filled with horror. Jesus' words in Luke 23:28-29 echo this. Moses predicted it in Deut 28:56-57.

No other besieged city sank to the degradation that overtook the Jews in Jerusalem. Josephus records that, proved by many witnesses, such violations of nature occurred that had never been committed by any Greek or Barbarian. It was the most horrific siege in all history.

Gradually, Titus broke part of the inner wall and gained the Tower of Antonia and advanced towards the temple. A soldier threw a torch into the temple, against the

command of Titus, setting it on fire. Filled with vengeance, soldiers ran on a killing spree. People were slain with the sword, asphyxiated by smoke, burned in the great fire, trod underfoot or crushed against walls, whether they surrendered or not. Josephus says that the screams of the victims were too shocking to adequately describe.

The temple was burned on the same month and day as when it was formerly burned by the Babylonians. Before the siege began the water supplies failed, the pool of Siloam and the springs in the city all failed; water had to be brought up in vessels. When the Romans entered the city the springs and pools were again abundant. This also happened during the siege by the Babylonians.

With the temple little more than a ruin, but with some parts still standing, the Romans raised up their ensigns against a fragment of the eastern gate and offered pagan sacrifices of thanksgiving with joy. Jesus also prophesied this desolation. Some priests that had escaped asked mercy of Titus. He said that if the temple had survived he would have spared them, but as it was destroyed he ordered their execution.

The leaders of the factions and a group of followers were cornered and Titus said that he would spare them if they laid down their arms. They refused. Titus thus proclaimed full destruction. The castle, palace and official buildings were set on fire; people were slaughtered wherever they were found. The seditious Jews plundered the palace and murdered 8400 of their own people. People fleeing the rebels were killed by the Romans. When they were tired of killing, the soldiers took the remaining Jews and sold them as slaves at a very low price, as Moses foretold (Deut 28:68). There were too many to sell and too few buyers.

What was left of the lower city was burned leaving a few Jews fleeing to the higher city, still reviling the Romans. Soon the walls of the higher city were demolished. Jews sought refuge in caverns and pits. 2,000 bodies were later found there.

Josephus tells us that over a million Jews were killed in the city and 97,000 enslaved and carried away. Some think this figure is too low (e.g Lenski). In 65 AD during Passover over 3 million celebrated the feast. 237,000 died in other places. Innumerable people were killed by famine and plague while 2,000 committed suicide.

A few noble looking youths and some nobles were kept by Titus for his triumphal entry into Rome. Those over 17 were sent in chains to Egypt or other parts of the empire for gladiators. The younger children were sold as slaves. 11,000 Jews under guard actually starved to death due to a lack of provisions.

### *Destruction of Jerusalem*

The siege lasted nearly five months from 14 April to 8 September. After Titus took Jerusalem, the temple and virtually all the city was burned or otherwise destroyed. He broke down the three 'impregnable' walls except part of the west one and three towers, which he left so that future generations could see what he had accomplished in destroying the rest.<sup>9</sup> [The western 'Wailing Wall' standing today is not a part of the temple; as Jesus prophesied, not one stone would remain standing upon another. That wall is a remaining part of the Fort Antonia or the Praetorium (HQ for the commanding general). It was left as a rampart for a garrison of soldiers.]<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Josephus, War. vii. 1.1.

<sup>10</sup> For information see many archaeologists and historians, e.g. Ernest L Martin Ph.D., 'The strange story of the false Wailing Wall'. For centuries Jews paid no attention at all to this western wall. Only after 1520 did

Even the foundations of the walls were dug up and the city levelled so that passers by might have thought there had never been a city there. This exactly fulfilled Jesus' prophecies (e.g. Lk 19:44). In fact the destruction of Jerusalem is a thorough piece of historical evidence to prove the truth of Jesus' divinity. The Talmud explains that Terentius Rufus, a captain of Titus, ploughed up the foundations of the temple with a ploughshare, recollecting Micah 3:12.

Josephus says

Caesar gave orders that they should now demolish the whole city and temple, except the three towers Phaselus, Hippicus, and Mariamne, and a part of the western wall; but all the rest was laid so completely even with the ground, by those who dug it up from the foundation, that there was nothing left to make those who came thither believe that it had ever been inhabited.

Judaea was so completely subjugated that the very land itself was sold by Vespasian; the Gentiles possessing it, while the Jews were either nearly all killed or led away into captivity.<sup>11</sup>

Titus thanked God for his help in taking Jerusalem. The walls and towers were indeed ordinarily impregnable. If the Jews had not left their fortresses he could not have taken them.

The Jerusalem built by Jews was forever destroyed; nothing was left apart from three towers and a bit of wall. The temple was ransacked and destroyed to rubble. The future rebuilding of Jerusalem was not done by Jews but by Christians and Muslims.

*After the destruction*

- 1700 Jews that surrendered at Machaerus were killed.
- 3,000 fleeing in the wood of Jardes were slain.
- In honour of his brother Domitian's birthday, Titus killed over 2500 Jews by fire and exposure to beasts or in gladiatorial games.
- At the siege of Masada 260 were killed by ten Jews on the orders of Eleazar, the commander. The ten were then killed by each other.
- Judea became a wasteland, as Isaiah affirmed (Isa 6:11-12). It continued in this state for centuries.

Titus Vespasianus Augustus became emperor on the death of his father from 79-81.

*Further humiliation*

After the Bar Cocheba revolt (132-135) was suppressed by Hadrian, the rebuilding of the city (already begun for Roman purposes) was resumed and finished. A temple to Jupiter was built on the site of the former temple. The city was renamed Colonia Aelia Capitolina. Colonia - to describe the city as a Roman colony; Aelia - after Hadrian's other name and Capitolina in honour of its dedication to Jupiter Capitolinus. The name Aelia continued for many centuries. Jews were forbidden to enter the city and a marble statue of a pig was placed over the principal gate. Judea was also renamed Palestine after the enemy of the Jews - the Philistines.

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certain Jews begin to change the location of the temple site and claim the wall was part of the temple precincts.

<sup>11</sup> Adam Clarke, Comm. Lk 21:24.

Constantine [c.274–337] improved the city and renamed it Jerusalem but still forbade Jews from entering it. Those who tried to recover the capital had their ears cut off and their bodies branded as rebels and dispersed as vagabonds.

In despite of the prophecies of Jesus, the pagan emperor Julian, about 363, attempted to rebuild Jerusalem and repatriate the Jews. The Roman Ammianus Marcellinus stated that balls of fire erupted by the foundations repeatedly stopping the workers from proceeding. Even the sceptic Gibbon affirmed that '*an earthquake, a whirlwind and fiery eruption ... overturned and scattered the new foundations of the temple*'.<sup>12</sup> He said that contemporaries like Ambrose of Milan, Chrysostom and Gregory Nazianzen corroborated this divine judgment. Even Jews like Zemuch David said, '*Julian was hindered by God in the attempt*'. Other witnesses include Rufinus, Theodoret, Sozomen, Philostorgius and others.

### *Jerusalem today*

The current building of parts of Jerusalem since 1967 was performed by the Ashkenazi ruling Jews with western finance. These folk descend from Khazars (Turko-Mongol people) and are not Semitic or descendants of Abraham and Judah. They are not Jews in the Biblical sense. The current 'Jewish' Jerusalem is a product of Freemasons and Rothschild financed elites but largely paid for by gullible American taxpayers. God has allowed this as part of his plan for the end of the age when man's sin comes to completion and judgment ensues.

Despite the rebuilding with vast amounts of US dollars, Talmudic Jews have to face the fact of the huge Muslim Dome of the Rock mosque on the temple site.

## Jesus' prophecies of Jewish destruction

Jesus spoke openly and frequently about the future destruction of the temple; indeed his words were twisted and used as evidence against him at his trial (Matt 26:61, 27:40).

Stephen also prophesied about the destruction of the temple and the end of the Mosaic Law:

They also set up false witnesses who said, 'This man does not cease to speak blasphemous words against this holy place and the law; for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs which Moses delivered to us'. Acts 6:13-14

### **Destruction of the temple**

Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said to them, 'Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not *one* stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down'. Matt 24:1-2

Then as He went out of the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, 'Teacher, see what manner of stones and what buildings are here!' And Jesus answered and said to him, 'Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone shall be left upon another, that shall not be thrown down'. Mk 13:1-2

Then, as some spoke of the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and donations, He said, 'These things which you see -- the days will come in which not one stone shall be left upon another that shall not be thrown down'. Lk 21:5-6

- The temple would be fully destroyed.

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<sup>12</sup> Gibbon, *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, Vol. 4, p107.

- Not *one* stone shall be left upon another.

### **Destruction of Jerusalem**

For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation. Lk 19:43-44

And a great multitude of the people followed Him, and women who also mourned and lamented Him. But Jesus, turning to them, said, 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For indeed the days are coming in which they will say, "Blessed are the barren, wombs that never bore, and breasts which never nursed!" Then they will begin to say to the mountains, "Fall on us!" and to the hills, "Cover us!" For if they do these things in the green wood, what will be done in the dry?' Lk 23:27-31

- The enemy of the Jews (Romans) would build a siege embankment against the walls of Jerusalem.
- The city would be levelled.
- The people would be levelled (killed).
- Not one stone of the city left upon another – it would be completely flattened.
- The cause of the destruction of Jerusalem was the great sin of the Jewish rejection of the Messiah.

When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. Then let those who are in Judaea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her. For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people. And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. Lk 21:20-24

- Jesus warned those who would listen to watch for the signs of an impending attack on Jerusalem and flee. Only Christians heed this warning and all were saved.
- The destruction of Jerusalem was an act of divine vengeance, fulfilling the OT prophecies about God's judgment on a rebellious people. God's wrath would be upon this people
- There will be great distress.
- Many would be killed by the sword. The main weapon of the Roman army was a short sword.
- Many others would be led away captive into all nations.
- Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> The meaning of this is hotly debated. Dispensationalists see it as the period of Gentile occupation of Judaea until 1948 and of Jerusalem until 1967. However, Muslims still have the Dome of the Rock mosque on the temple site. This is coupled with Rm 11:25, the blindness of Israel is until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. Some see this as a revival amongst the Jews but the fulness of the elect Gentiles refers to the end of the world. Most Reformed and even Lutheran commentators have taken this view (e.g. Lenski, Hendrickson) – Jesus is referring to the end of the world. Some Postmillennialists differ and expect an Israeli revival. The current occupation of Israel by Khazar people, in the main, claiming to be Jews is not a fulfilment of this prophecy. For a start there are many Muslim Arabs living in Israel and Jerusalem. A mosque stands on the temple site. Most 'Jews' are actually liberal or atheist. Even religious Jews are not Biblical Jews but Talmudic Jews; only a very few are Torah Jews and the ruling party is Talmudic and the state is officially based on the Talmud. This is not a restoration of Biblical Jews.

Jesus also mentioned many other signs that would accompany both the end and the destruction of Jerusalem: viz.: false messiahs, rumours of wars, nations attacking nations, earthquakes, famines, pestilences and signs in the heavens. All these occurred in the years leading up to the siege of Jerusalem include a meteor resembling a sword over Jerusalem that was visible for a whole year. However, we do not have space to list all these here.<sup>14</sup>

### **OT promises about future judgment**

But if you or your sons at all turn from following Me, and do not keep My commandments and My statutes which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods and worship them, then I will cut off Israel from the land which I have given them; and this house which I have consecrated for My name I will cast out of My sight. Israel will be a proverb and a byword among all peoples. And as for this house, which is exalted, everyone who passes by it will be astonished and will hiss, and say, 'Why has the LORD done thus to this land and to this house?' Then they will answer, 'Because they forsook the LORD their God, who brought their fathers out of the land of Egypt, and have embraced other gods, and worshiped them and served them; therefore the LORD has brought all this calamity on them'. 1 Kg 9:6-9

But if you turn away and forsake My statutes and My commandments which I have set before you, and go and serve other gods, and worship them, then I will uproot them from My land which I have given them; and this house which I have sanctified for My name I will cast out of My sight, and will make it a proverb and a byword among all peoples. And *as for* this house, which is exalted, everyone who passes by it will be astonished and say, 'Why has the LORD done thus to this land and this house?' Then they will answer, 'Because they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, who brought them out of the land of Egypt, and embraced other gods, and worshiped them and served them; therefore He has brought all this calamity on them'. 2 Chron 7:19-22

And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it *shall be* with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined. Dan 9:26

Now hear this, You heads of the house of Jacob and rulers of the house of Israel, who abhor justice and pervert all equity, who build up Zion with bloodshed and Jerusalem with iniquity: her heads judge for a bribe, her priests teach for pay, and her prophets divine for money. Yet they lean on the LORD, and say, 'Is not the LORD among us? No harm can come upon us'. Therefore because of you Zion shall be ploughed like a field, Jerusalem shall become heaps of ruins, and the mountain of the temple like the bare hills of the forest. Mic 3:9-12

## **Paul's expectation of the end of Judaism**

For on the one hand there is an annulling of the former commandment because of its weakness and unprofitableness, for the law made nothing perfect; on the other hand, there is the bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God. Heb 7:18-19

For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second. Heb 8:7

In that He says, 'A new covenant', He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away. Heb 8:13

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<sup>14</sup> For further data see the histories of Josephus (the Jewish War) or George Holford, 'The Destruction of Jerusalem'.

Paul clearly expected that the material end of Judaism would soon follow the manifestation of the New Covenant. This New Covenant annulled the former Old Covenant, the Mosaic Law.

The Mosaic Law was weak, unprofitable, made nothing perfect and was faulty. This is not a weakness in the divine plan; the law fulfilled its divine purpose exactly (pointing to Christ and showing man's need of a Saviour). It was weak in that it could not empower men to be holy; only Christ can do that through his redemptive work and the work of the Holy Spirit within saints.

The apostles in general taught that a new era had begun with the ascension of Jesus and the outpouring of the Spirit. The old order of Moses was finished and the new order, or dispensation, of unity with Christ and life in the Spirit had begun. This clearly meant the end of all the trappings of OT Judaism. They had fulfilled their purpose in pointing to the coming Messiah and were now finished and obsolete.

Judaism was ended and had no further purpose in God's plan. In Paul's time it was already old and obsolete and would soon vanish away. It did within a few years of writing this letter.

Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. And do not become idolaters as *were* some of them. As it is written, 'The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play'. Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell; nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer. Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. 1 Cor 10:6-11

Paul warns believers not to follow the bad example of the Jews, explaining that even after the Exodus God was angry with them and destroyed a whole generation in condemnation (v5).

But here I am interested in his statement that, in the context of the Jews, 'the ends of the ages have come'. This was written earlier than Hebrews but even then Paul was aware that the age or dispensation of the Jewish Old Covenant was ended.

Other passages expressing this thought include:

But this I say, brethren, the time *is* short, so that from now on even those who have wives should be as though they had none, those who weep as though they did not weep, those who rejoice as though they did not rejoice, those who buy as though they did not possess, and those who use this world as not misusing *it*. For the form of this world is passing away. 1 Cor 7:29-31

The Lord *is* at hand. Phil 4:5

For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: For yet a little while, *And* He who is coming will come and will not tarry. Heb 10:46-37

Finally, while the argument of the apostle here regards exhorting Jewish Christians to continue in Christ and not fall back into Judaism and reflects a hypothetical case if applied to believers, it could also be, at least, suggestive of the situation of Jews who had rejected Christ when this was written just before 70 AD.

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. For if we sin wilfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain

fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay', says the Lord. And again, 'The LORD will judge His people'. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. Heb 10:25-31

This could almost be a commentary on the destruction of Jerusalem.

The Jews had:

- Sinned wilfully after receiving knowledge of the truth, which was preached by Jesus and the apostles.
- They had rejected the only Saviour, so there no longer remained a sacrifice for sins (in Judaism), but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation, which will devour God's adversaries.
- How much worse punishment will be thought worthy of those who have trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which they were sanctified a common thing,<sup>15</sup> and insulted the Spirit of grace?<sup>16</sup>
- 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay', says the Lord. And again, 'The LORD will judge His people'. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. The destruction of Jerusalem was that judgment.

## Quotes

God's wrath rejected this nation, it fell from the covenant, and the gospel and its new covenant passed to the Gentiles, the non-Jewish nations of the world. It did this to such an extent that all Jews who become Christians are lost to their race. ... [God] is done with the Jews as a nation, his work is now confined to non-Jews.

RCH Lenski, *Comm. on Luke*, p1022.

[In divine judgment] During every successive age, and in all nations, this ill-fated people have been constantly persecuted, enslaved, condemned, harassed and oppressed; banished from one country to another, and abased in all.

George Holford, *The Destruction of Jerusalem*, p104.

The cup of their iniquity was full; that they were in fact abandoned by God; that they were the objects even then of his displeasure, and that their destruction was so certain that it might be spoken of as an indubitable fact. The "wrath of God" may be said to have come upon a man when he abandons him, even though there may not be as yet any external expressions of his indignation. It is not punishment that constitutes the wrath of God. That is the mere outward expression of the divine indignation, and the wrath of God may in fact have come upon a man when as yet there are no external tokens of it. The overthrow of Jerusalem and the temple, were but the outward expressions of the divine displeasure at their conduct. Paul, inspired to speak of the feelings of God, describes that wrath as already existing in the divine mind; ... [it refers to] that extremity of calamity and woe which was about to come upon the nation.

Albert Barnes on 1 Thess 2:16

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<sup>15</sup> That is, the separation of the children of Israel from the nations at the first.

<sup>16</sup> Referring to the many great acts of the Spirit in Jewish history providing miracles of deliverance. The insult was ignoring the Spirit.

Who hath killed the Lord Jesus, etc. - What a finished but just character is this of the Jews!

1. They slew the Lord Jesus, through the most unprincipled and fell malice.
2. They killed their own prophets; there was no time in which the seed of the serpent did not hate and oppose spiritual things, they slew even their own prophets who declared to them the will of God.
3. They persecuted the apostles; showing the same spirit of enmity to the Gospel which they had shown to the law.
4. They did not please God, nor seek to please him; though they pretended that their opposition to the Gospel was through their zeal for God's glory, they were hypocrites of the worst kind.
5. They were contrary to all men; they hated the whole human race, and judged and wished them to perdition.
6. They forbade the apostles to preach to the Gentiles, lest they should be saved; this was an inveteracy of malice completely superhuman; they persecuted the body to death, and the soul to damnation! They were afraid that the Gentiles should get their souls saved if the Gospel was preached to them!
7. They filled up their sins always; they had no mere purposes or outlines of iniquity, all were filled up; every evil purpose was followed, as far as possible, with a wicked act! Is it any wonder, therefore, that wrath should come upon them to the uttermost? It is to be reckoned among the highest mercies of God that the whole nation was not pursued by the Divine justice to utter and final extinction.

Adam Clarke on 1 Thess 2:16

"The" divine "wrath has (so the Greek) come upon (overtaken unexpectedly; the past tense expressing the speedy certainty of the divinely destined stroke) them to the uttermost"; not merely partial wrath, but wrath to its full extent, "even to the finishing stroke" [EDMUNDS]. The past tense implies that the fullest visitation of wrath was already begun. Already in A.D. 48, a tumult had occurred at the Passover in Jerusalem, when about thirty thousand (according to some) were slain; a foretaste of the whole vengeance which speedily followed.

Jamieson, Fausset and Brown on 1 Thess 2:16

## Conclusion

The end of Judaism was foretold by Jesus.

The end of Judaism was a theological necessity based upon the teaching of the apostles about the New Covenant and grace.

The end of Judaism was expected by the apostles and was mentioned in Scripture before it occurred.

Judaism was formally obliterated when Jerusalem was destroyed and Jews were unable to perform any of the rituals associated with it. Jews could no longer worship God and make sacrifices for sins without a priesthood, a temple, an altar and the temple vessels and furniture.

Judaism ceased to have any pure Levites, priests, High Priests, Tabernacle or Temple. It had no holy vessels and furniture; no bronze altar, no golden altar, no ark of the covenant, no menorah (lampstand), and no table for shewbread. It ceased to be able to perform the sacrificial offerings necessary to be a Jew. It ceased to have any prophets after John the Baptist, whose job was to prepare the way for Jesus and who was the termination of Judaistic prophecy. It had no kings or pure kingly line. For 2,000 years it had no capital

city where the promises were centred and which was necessary for celebrating the feasts and fasts. Its destruction completely follows the warnings of Moses that final judgment would fall on Jews if they rebelled against God and committed continued idolatry or rejected his coming deliverer.

God ensured that it was an impossibility for Jews to continue their religion according to the Torah.

The Judaism that developed after 70 AD by the Pharisees was not Biblical (Torah) Judaism. The enemies of Jesus built a new religion based upon the ideas of men (rabbis) that featured the epitome of the old nature. It was a degenerate mixture of all forms of iniquity, including child sexual abuse, coupled with worship of self and Satan, and many foul blasphemies.

The fact that many modern Christians support this iniquity, through the brainwashing of elite-sponsored Dispensationalism, is a disgrace. It is so severe a problem that it is doubtful that Christians supporting it (including Messianic Christians of all sorts) can really be saved people. How can anyone really be a Christian and support a Satanic work?

Make no mistake, the modern formulation of Talmudic Judaism is a satanic work and is not Biblical in any sense.<sup>17</sup>

Biblical Judaism is dead by God's command. It died theologically with the appearance of Jesus (the fulfilment and end of all the types of Judaism) and his cross, resurrection and ascension. A new order was initiated by Jesus with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Judaism died practically with the destruction of the temple and of Jerusalem in 70 AD when that generation was virtually cut off.

The vast majority of the Jews of that generation were killed by divine providence. The house of Israel was desolate as Jesus foretold; the nation was crushed to powder and obliterated.

A small minority of Jews either escaped in rural areas and fled while some that had not gone up to Jerusalem for Passover in foreign nations may have survived. However, all these intermingled with other races and were lost. The Idumaeans (Edomites) settled in vacant Judea and became the Sephardim (Spanish Jews), according to Jewish encyclopaedias. These are not descended from Jacob and lie under God's curse (unless they repent and follow Jesus). The Ashkenazi (Russian / German Jews; most modern Jews) derived from the Khazars and are not even Semitic at all. They don't have even a fleshly claim to any OT promises, let alone the land.

Thus modern Jews are not the same people as OT Torah Jews but are a mixed ethnic people (this is now proven by genetics)<sup>18</sup> but they are Jews because they follow Talmudic religion (a small minority are Torah Jews awaiting a messiah and rejecting Zionism). Jews of today are not a race, nor a specific ethnic division, but are mixed people following Pharisaic Talmudism. Talmudic rabbis don't even pretend to be Jews according to the Torah.

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<sup>17</sup> See my Paper, 'The Pharisees' and many others.

<sup>18</sup> I have proved this in other papers. For example a Cohen person (a Jew with the surname Cohen) who thought they were purely derived from the Kohanites was DNA tested and found to be a mixture of Azerbaijani and German origin.

Modern Judaism is a false religion based on Satan. It indeed follows the characteristics of its founders, the Pharisees, and thus deserves the same condemnation of Jesus namely, Judaism is, 'like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. ... [it is] full of hypocrisy and lawlessness' (Matt 23:27-28).

Do not be fooled. Modern Judaism is not Biblical Judaism; it is Talmudic Satanism. God's providence ensured the physical destruction of Judaism so that it could not continue. Fleshly Jewishness and material Israel have no place in God's purpose. Elect Jews find salvation only as they believe in Christ and count the cost becoming Christians.

Jesus and Jesus alone is the fulfilment of God's plan, purpose and covenant. He also is the heir of all God's promises. The inheritance, the kingdom, the land, the royal priesthood, the sacrificial offering, the temple of God, the end of the law, and the fulness of God all exist in Christ Jesus. Christians share in these things as they are united in Christ in eternal life and resurrection.

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